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Convention to Combat Desertification

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Committee on Science and Technology
Fourth special session
Cancun, Mexico, 9–12 March 2015
Agenda item 4
Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology

Draft report of the Committee on Science and Technology on its fourth special session, held in Cancun from 9 to 12 March 2015

Rapporteur: Mr. Matthias Magunda (Uganda)

Contents

Paragraphs *Page*

(To be completed)

Please recycle

I. Opening of the session

1. The fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S-4) was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Uriel Safriel (Israel) in Cancun, Mexico, from 9 to 12 March 2015. The Committee held eight meetings from 9 to 12 March 2015.

2. At its first meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Chair of the Committee opened the session and welcomed all Parties and observers.

3. At the same meeting, opening statements were made by Mr. Roberto Borge Angulo, Governor of the State of Quintana Roo; Mr. Jorge Rescala Perez, General Director of the National Forestry Commission, Mexico; and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

II. Organizational matters

A Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (Agenda item 1)

4. At its first meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Committee considered agenda item 1, "Adoption of the agenda and organization of work", for which it had before it a note by the secretariat contained in document ICCD/CST(S-4)/1.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document ICCD/CST(S-4)/1, and approved the organization of work for the session, as contained in annex II of the provisional agenda. The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Combating desertification/land degradation and drought for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices:

(a) Diagnosis of constraints: vulnerability of agro-ecosystems and populations in affected regions;
(b) Responses: land-based approaches to adaptation and knowledge transfer;

(c) Monitoring and assessment: how to evaluate the effectiveness of adaptation interventions.

3. Provision of scientific advice on the topic: "Explore the options to achieve land degradation neutrality in the context of sustainable development".

4. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology.

6. At its first meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Matthias Magunda (Uganda), Mr. Oleg Guchgeldiyev (Turkmenistan), and Ms. Nicole Edel Laure Bernex Weiss de Falen (Peru) as Vice-Chairs to complete the terms of Mr. Chehat Fouad (Algeria), Mr. Allaadeen Mohamad Abdalla Al-Sharjabi (Yemen) and Ms. Sonia Gonzalez (Peru).

7. Also at its first meeting, the Commission appointed the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Matthias Magunda (Uganda), as the Rapporteur for the session.

B. Attendance

8. The representative of the following Parties to the Convention attended the fourth special session of the Committee:

(*To be completed*)

9. The session was also attended by observers from:

(*To be completed*)

10. The following United Nations organizations, offices and specialized agencies were represented:

(*To be completed*)

11. [xxx] intergovernmental and [xxx] civil society organizations were also represented.

12. [xxx] scientists, also attended the CST S-4 and the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference, which began on 9 March 2015 and ended on 12 March 2015.

C. Documentation

13. The documents submitted for the consideration of the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology are listed in the annex.

III. Action by the Committee on agenda items 2 to 4

A. Combating desertification/land degradation and drought for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices (Agenda item 2)

The UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference

14. The Committee convened the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference, which took place from the first to seventh meetings of the CST S-4, on 9–12 March 2015 under agenda item 2 (a)–(c).

15. At its first meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Committee considered agenda item 2, "Combating desertification/land degradation and drought for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices" and had before it notes by the secretariat contained in document ICCD/CST(S-4)/2 and Corr. 1.

16. At its second and fourth meetings, on 9 and 10 March 2015, respectively, the Committee considered sub-item 2 (a), entitled "Diagnosis of constraints: vulnerability of agro-ecosystems and populations in affected regions".

17. At its third and fourth meetings, on 10 March 2015, the Committee considered sub-item 2 (b), entitled "Responses: land-based approaches to adaption and knowledge transfer".

18. At its fifth and sixth meetings, on 11 and 12 March 2015, the Committee considered sub-item 2 (c), entitled "Monitoring and assessment: how to evaluate the effectiveness of adaptation interventions".

(To be completed)

B. Provision of scientific advice on the topic: "Explore the options to achieve land degradation neutrality in the context of sustainable development" (Agenda item 3)

19. At its eighth meeting, on 12 March 2015, the Committee considered agenda item 3, "Provision of scientific advice on the topic: "Explore the options to achieve land degradation neutrality in the context of sustainable development" and had before it notes by the secretariat contained in document ICCD/CST(S-4)/2 and Corr.1.

(To be completed)

C. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology (Agenda item 4)

20. At its eighth meeting, on 12 March 2015, the Committee considered agenda item 4, "Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology", for which it had before it the draft report of its fourth special session (ICCD/CST(S-4)/L.1).

21. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee adopted the draft report and authorized the Rapporteur to complete the report of the session, with the assistance of the secretariat.

Annex

Documents before the Committee on Science and Technology at its fourth special session

(To be completed)